



# Focus

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## Alternatives to Outdoor Burning

### **What is outdoor burning?**

Outdoor burning means the combustion of any type of material in an open fire. This burning has no means of controlling combustion or controlling the emissions produced from the combustion.

### **Why is outdoor burning a concern?**

The smoke from outdoor burning contains many air pollutants. These include carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxides, nitrogen oxides, and other volatile organic compounds and toxic substances. This smoke also produces tiny particles that are inhaled deep into the lungs. Our body's defenses can't protect us from them, so these particles can cause harmful chemical and structural changes to human lung tissue.

### **Does outdoor burning really hurt anyone?**

Absolutely! It has been demonstrated many times that pregnant women and the elderly can have their health placed at risk from exposure to smoke from burning. It can also pose a high risk for those individuals with heart and respiratory conditions who then have to cope with the additional health burden from exposure to smoke. It only takes a few fires to create unhealthy levels of smoke-produced particles and chemicals throughout an entire community. You don't have to smell the smoke or see a thick haze to be exposed to potentially harmful levels of these substances.

### **Smoke and children**

Infants and children face a special risk when exposed to either wood smoke or the smoke from outdoor burning. Cancer-causing and toxic compounds attach themselves to the tiny smoke particles and hitchhike on them into the lungs. As bad as this is for adults, it's even worse for kids. It interferes with the normal development of their lungs. It also increases their risk of lower respiratory tract infection, which is a major cause of early childhood death and illness.

### **Can't people at risk from smoke just stay indoors?**

Staying indoors doesn't provide much protection from smoke. Smoke particles are so tiny that they can seep into houses even with the windows and doors closed. Smoke pollution inside a house can reach up to 70 percent of the levels that exist outside.

### **What if I have a complaint about illegal burning?**

If you have a complaint about someone who is burning illegally, you can call the Department of Ecology's toll free complaint line at 1-866-211-6284.

## **Recycling Facilities and Contacts**

### ***Asotin County***

Asotin County  
2901 Sixth Avenue  
Clarkston, WA 99344  
Phone (509) 758-1965  
FAX (509) 758-1977  
Email [acrl@clarkston.com](mailto:acrl@clarkston.com)

### ***Ferry County***

Ferry County Public Works  
PO Box 305  
Republic WA 99166-0305  
Phone (509) 775-5217  
FAX (509) 775-2492  
Email [louis\\_manage@hotmail.com](mailto:louis_manage@hotmail.com)

### ***Garfield County***

Garfield County  
PO Box 160  
Pomeroy, WA 99347-0580  
Phone (509) 843-1301  
FAX (509) 843-1412  
Email [garfeng@co.garfield.wa.us](mailto:garfeng@co.garfield.wa.us)

### ***Lincoln County***

Lincoln County Public Works  
27234 SR 25 North  
Davenport WA 99122  
Phone (509) 725-7041  
FAX (509) 725-4467  
Email [mbircher@co.lincoln.wa.us](mailto:mbircher@co.lincoln.wa.us)

### ***Stevens County***

Stevens County Public Works  
185 E. Hawthorne  
Colville, WA 99114  
Phone (509) 738-6106  
FAX (509) 738-2850  
Email [Screcycle@plix.com](mailto:Screcycle@plix.com)

### ***Whitman County***

Whitman County Public Works  
PO Box 430  
Colfax, WA 99111  
Phone (509) 397-6206  
FAX (509) 397-6210  
Hotline (509) 397-4622 x 421  
Email [AmyW@co.whitman.wa.us](mailto:AmyW@co.whitman.wa.us)

### ***Chelan County***

Chelan County Solid Waste  
350 Orondo Street  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Phone (509) 664-5415  
FAX (509) 664-5246  
Email [brenda.harn@co.chelan.wa.us](mailto:brenda.harn@co.chelan.wa.us)

### ***Franklin County***

Franklin County Public Works  
3540 North Avenue #C  
Pasco, WA 99301  
Phone (509) 545-3514  
FAX (509) 545-2133  
Email [smckenzie@co.franklin.wa.us](mailto:smckenzie@co.franklin.wa.us)

### ***Grant County***

Grant County Public Works  
124 Enterprise Street SE PO Box 37  
Ephrata, WA 98823-0037  
Phone (509) 754-2011 x422  
FAX (509) 754-2011 x438

### ***Pend Oreille County***

Pend Oreille County Public Works  
PO Box 5040  
Newport, WA 99156  
Phone (509) 447-4513  
FAX (509) 447-5890  
Email [pwilson@pendoreille.org](mailto:pwilson@pendoreille.org)

### ***Walla Walla County***

Walla Walla Columbia Recycling  
310 Popular, Suite 001  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
Phone (509) 527-3282  
FAX (509) 545-2133  
Email [trhodes@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:trhodes@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

### ***Burning Information***

For current regulations on outdoor burning  
contact the Department of Ecology's  
Agricultural and Outdoor Burning Program  
Phone (509) 456-2926  
Complaint Line 1-866-211-6284